



RDCRS Boundary Development Board Report

April 26, 2022

Introduction:

RDCRS Boundary Development Team:

- The RDCRS Boundary Development Team read, reviewed and discussed 30 feedback submissions from the March 16 stakeholder engagement meeting as well as stakeholder feedback from the initial feedback form.
- This feedback helped to form some of our direction going forward.
- Effective and efficient communication processes have been prevalent throughout the stakeholder feedback process.

Guiding Principles:

- Minimize splitting elementary students to more than two middle schools when they transition to Grade 6, try to achieve a 50% split if possible.
- Avoid leapfrogging subdivisions.
- Allow schools to continue to see growth.
- Minimize consecutive years when students need to change schools.
- Grandfather Grade 9 and Grade 5 if applicable.

Questions arising from the Board of Trustees and answers provided by the RDCRS Boundary Development Team regarding the boundary development process, recorded from the March 29, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

1. Busing/Transportation

Question: Request for more options with respect to rural busing.

Answer:

We are adding two rural routes this fall due to growth in numbers of our high school students coming into the city from West of Sylvan, Sylvan Lake and Bowden.

Another option is to assess fees to rural families as the grant funding does not cover the cost of underutilized units trying to balance ride times.

We are adding another inclusive learning route and Blackfalds route.

To reduce ride times:

Express Bus in city: Consolidate stops and have an express run to reduce ride times. Challenge is “walk distances” for students to get to express stop.

Question: Do we want to establish a guideline for the maximum amount of time for a bus ride? Not just about St. Lorenzo, a bigger question for the whole Division.

Answer:
Presently, we aim for under one hour in town.

Question: Look at school bell times and integrate school bus times to allow for shorter rides for students.

Answer:
Bell times will not significantly impact our ride times. Knowing bell times does allow us to be more efficient with our routes allowing us to add routes, and double routing.

Request intent form will be available early in December 2022 to determine school choice of families in order to begin the routing process. April will be a follow-up as well.

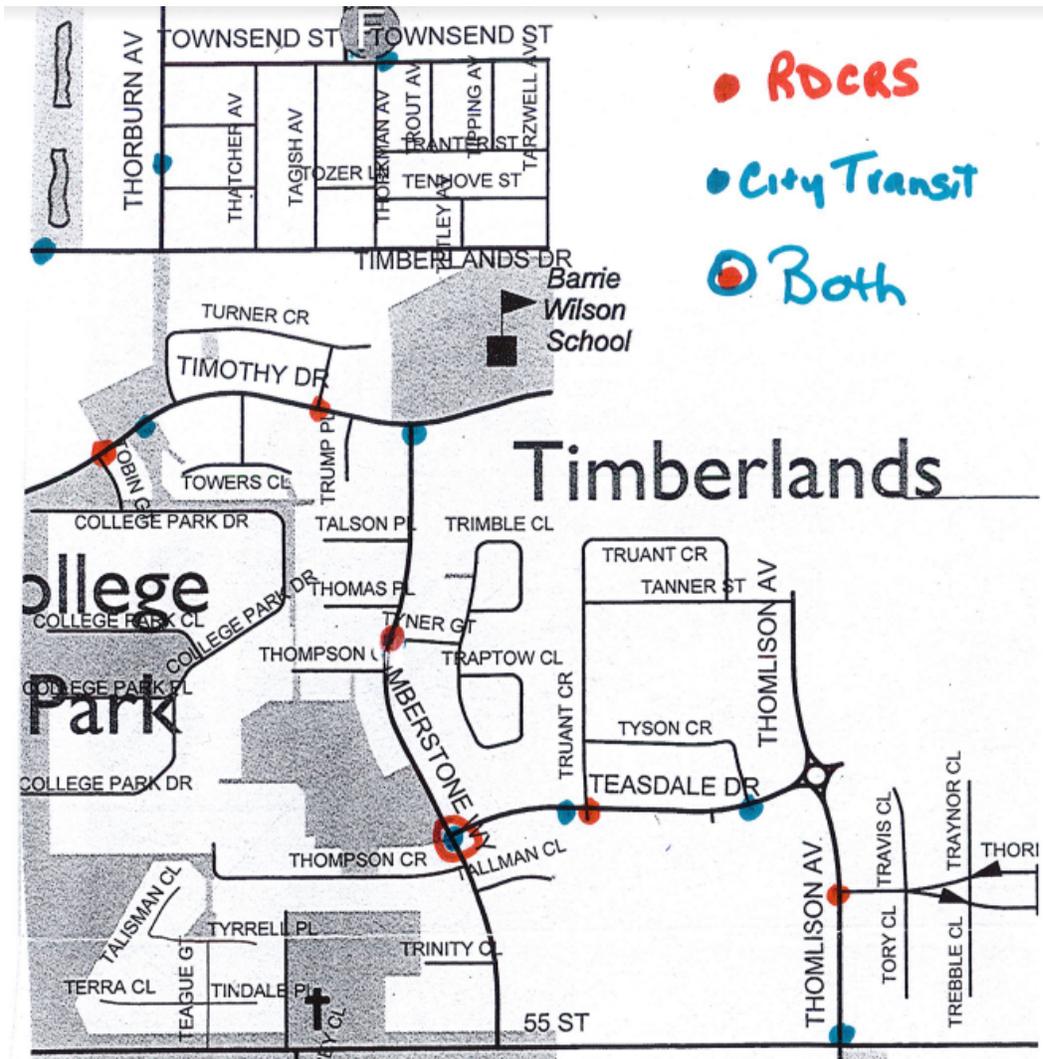
Challenge: If we grandfather the first year and also anticipate families moving in and out of the Division, the second year would give us a cleaner look at ridership so that we could assess bell times and double route between schools.

Question: What is practical for bus stops? Considerations should include:

- Distance from schools
- Idea of express buses
- What would that look like

Answer:
Currently, we ask elementary students to **walk** less than 0.4 k.m. to a stop and middle school students up to 0.5 k.m. An *Express Bus* for the middle school students would require a greater **walking distance** (not accurately calculable until families register) as fewer stops would equal less pick-up/travel time.

Example Express Route (Timberlands Neighbourhood)



Our Express Route is looking at consolidated stops similar to City Transit. The diagram above shows RDCRS' current existing bus stops, compared to City Transit location bus stops.

Solution: The subdivisions that are the furthest away from St. Lorenzo would have this type of service.

Can we coordinate bus stops with City Transit for ease of communication?

Question: Once boundaries are developed and there is busing provided, what would happen if you gave the parents the option to opt out of busing?

Answer:

This is an Out of Boundary request. This would need to follow process.

Out of Boundary Request: If parents elect to enroll their child in a school outside their catchment and not considered a School of Choice, an Out of Boundary Request is required. Please use the appropriate form below to request your child's enrolment at a school outside of your current catchment area. Please note that parents need to fill out one form for each request. If approved, parents will be responsible for transporting their child to and from school and transportation fees will apply if busing is available.

As it is right now, if the school division has transportation available, the government does not require us to give a parent the grant funding if they choose not to ride.

Question: An option to have individual bus stops versus having consolidated busing stops?

Answer:

We provide this type of service for our Inclusive Learning students due to their needs (e.g. Inclusive Service 83 has 15 pickups and 1hr 20min ride time (driving through the city for École Secondaire Notre Dame High School and St. Francis of Assisi). On a large bus with 40 to 50 families, the ride times would be over two hours.

2. Grandfathering

Question: How will things be affected if you open up grandfathering? Related to grandfathering and keeping siblings together, how far do you grandfather, could be several years, what does that look like, how many years?

Answer:

- Grandfathering is a choice, not a requirement.
- All students that will be attending middle school in 2023, will be eligible for the grandfathering program, if impacted by boundary adjustments.
- The elementary students will be determined when an option is developed. Grandfathering will occur because we potentially could have elementary students who will change schools in three years (three schools in three years (i.e. Grade 5 to Grade 6, then Grade 7 to St. Lorenzo Grades 7, 8, 9):
 - Option: We will grandfather you, but only provide RDCRS busing for one year (within City limits). If rural, due to the existing transfer sites, we could possibly continue to accommodate grandfathering beyond one year. Factors to consider: Room on bus and school, siblings.

- Potentially, we could say, we will provide a transit pass (not designated bus).
- Process with a letter about the grandfathering and busing agreement.

3. Programming

Question: Idea of programming opportunities at St. Lorenzo - What will this look like:

- Academies, STEM, Esports, fine arts?
- How will it be part of broader programming across the Division?
- Where will sports academies be done and how will they be handled?

Answer:

As suggested as part of the feedback process, we will evaluate where academies are located based on transition plans from middle school to high school.

Academies have always been based on stakeholder input and feedback.

Continual programming focus.

4. Population Growth at Schools

Question: Idea of *delinking* elementary to middle schools, how would that work and affect populations at different schools?

Answer: We have divided the city into three areas:

Area 1: N - St. Lorenzo: 344 students (Timberland, Timberstone, Garden Heights, Clearview Ridge, Oriole Park, Riverside Meadows, Highland Green, Glendale, Normandeau, Johnston Crossing, Kentwood, RD County North West)

Area 2: NE - St. Thomas : 360 students (Clearview, Clearview Meadows, Michener, Michener Hill, Rosedale, Waskasoo, Woodlea , Eastview, Morrisroe, Grandview, Deer Park North, West Lake/West Park, Parkvale, Red Deer College, RD County NE, Bowerwoods - eventual development and Baseball Academy)

Area 3: SE and SW - St. Francis: 640 students (Lancaster, Anders, Sunnybrook, Bower, Sunnybrook South, Inglewood, Vani er, Southhill, RD County SE and SW, Foundations Program)

- With Ball Academy numbers, St. Lorenzo drops to 306, STA is 405, St. Francis 632 at 91% capacity.
- Essentially, delinking is Option 1. With delinking, we are splitting Father Henri Voisin and Holy Family School. This does not meet our guiding principles.

- Bus times are more efficient with this option.

Question: Have we considered how these decisions will impact the populations at our elementary schools?

Answer: At this point, we don't think there would be a significant impact to elementary schools.

Question: Did administration do any analysis on how people voted related to if they lived in a certain geographic area? If data is there, we would like this information.

Answer:
Nothing surprising in [data](#), information was based on individual needs.

5. Programs of Choice

Question: We got the impression that families didn't understand that if their child was in a Program of Choice, that this wouldn't be affecting them. More communication is needed.

Answer:
St. Joseph High School and St. Thomas Aquinas, as examples, hosts a joint annual open house for their ball academies. This year, the open house was on March 7, 2022 at St. Joseph High School with 100 people in attendance. This open house event has been occurring for the past four years. Last year was a virtual open house. The only difference is that the Program of Choice location may change. Our Ecole Camille J. Lerouge French Immersion program, St. Martin de Porres Fine Arts School and the Ecole Secondaire Notre Dame High School Hockey Program host similar open houses.

6. What makes a school viable?

Question: Is there a minimum number of students required to make a middle school viable?

Answer:
Viable means that there is a large enough school population to oversee the operation of the school. This becomes a balance between viability and fiscal responsibility.

If a middle school is unable to offer a robust and broad offering of option programming, students will either move to a public school or find ways to attend another middle school. This is the same scenario that we find with High School feasibility in Sylvan Lake.

With the current options being presented the utilization of each school is:

St. Lorenzo - 60%, 60%, 57%, 57% (Option 1, 2, 3, 4)

St. Thomas - 74%, 70%, 73%, 66% (Option 1, 2, 3, 4)

St. Francis - 77%, 81%, 81%, 86% (Option 1, 2, 3, 4)

As a result of this, an Option 4 was developed (please see below under Options).

7. Lottery

Question: Would we consider the concept of a lottery. For example, if the capacity is 800, and there are 600 that live in the catchment, there are still 200 spots available, to do a lottery on the next 200 spots for families outside the catchment.

Answer:

Goal is to develop boundaries that create school communities that welcome all students from a catchment area into a school.

We want to ensure an inclusive school division. A lottery system would go against our Division's [Mission Statement](#).

Lottery systems could help maintain utilization rates with schools that are over capacity, but now we are filling up an underutilized school with unsuccessful families. We are busing families out of their catchment into other neighbourhoods. This scenario for transportation would be based from all areas of the city, potentially increasing ride times within the entire Division.

Red Deer Catholic does not have the population to consider a lottery system. In addition, our schools are not strategically-placed to support efficient transportation in a lottery system.

8. Next Steps

Question: The Boundary Development Team will communicate that a Board Boundary Development Report is due in April and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for them to make a decision for June.

Answer:

Through the March 29, 2022 Board Highlights, it was communicated that a Boundary Development Report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the April 26, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

9. Feedback Submission Deadline

Question: Date or deadline in mind when we will no longer be taking parent feedback into consideration?

Answer:

The last day to submit feedback regarding the boundary development process is Thursday, April 14, 2022.

A [parent letter](#) was sent out on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 to all RDCRS stakeholders and families via Swift Reach, notifying them about the last date for feedback submission.

Based on stakeholder feedback, we have made the following adjustments:

- Southbrooke as Option 4.
- Grandfathering - expanding the grandfathering option.
- Busing - Express, Consolidation.
- Recognition of the transportation concerns.

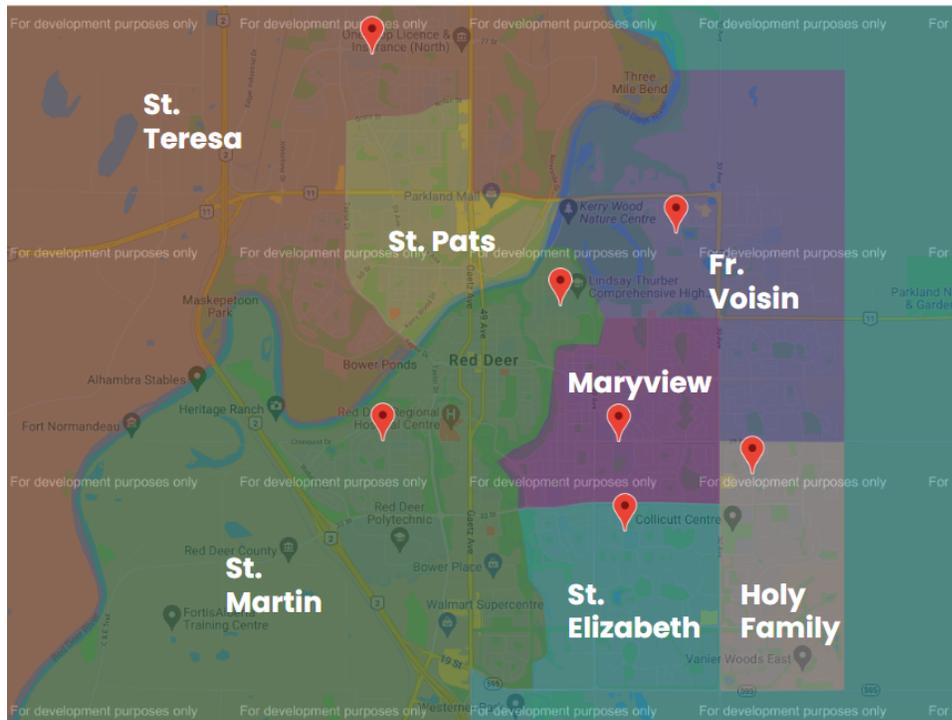
Options:

Below are four options presented to the Board of Trustees:

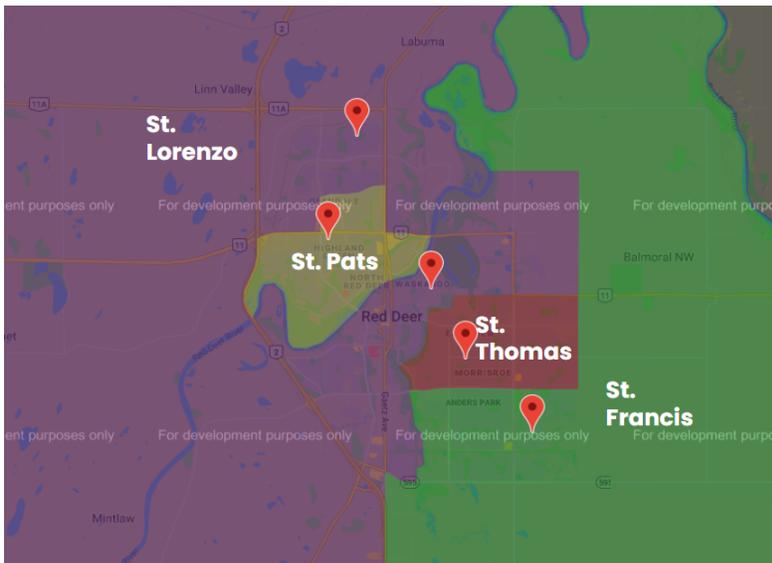
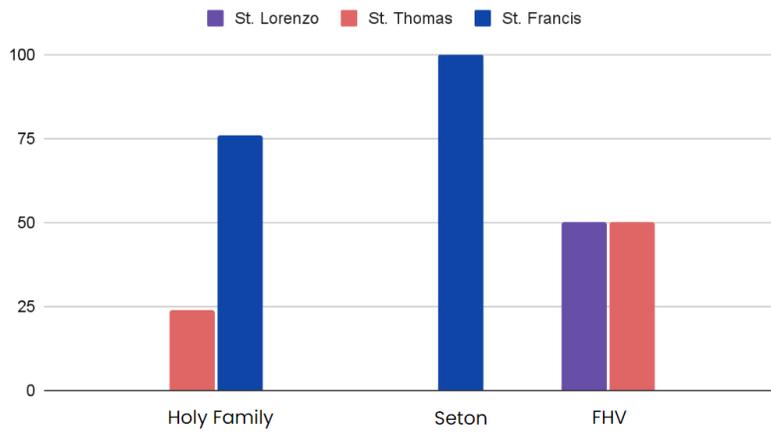
OPTION 1:

	St. Lorenzo	St. Thomas	Maryview
St. Martin	✓		
FHV (north of 55th), St Teresa, St. Pats*	✓		
FHV (south of 55th)		✓	
Deer Park South		✓	
Clearview South (Elementary)			✓

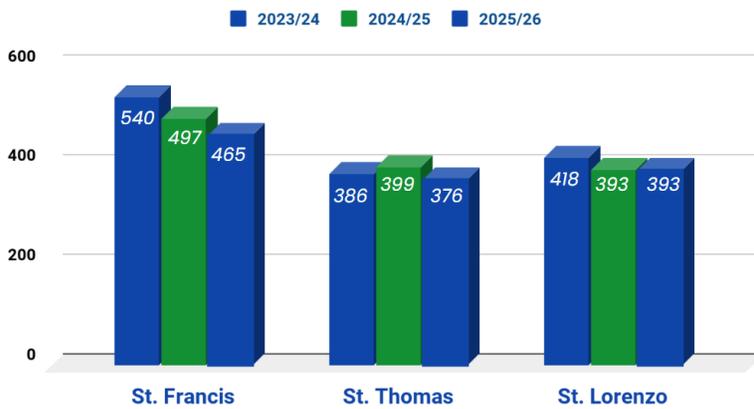
*Not wanting year round



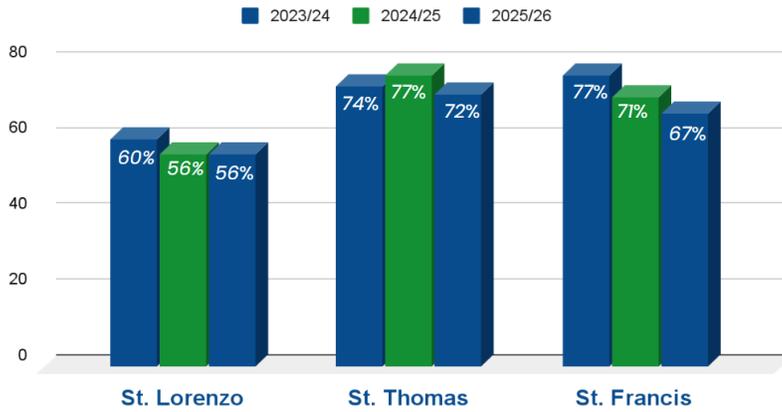
Elementary Transition Breakdown (Option 1)



Option 1 Population Breakdown



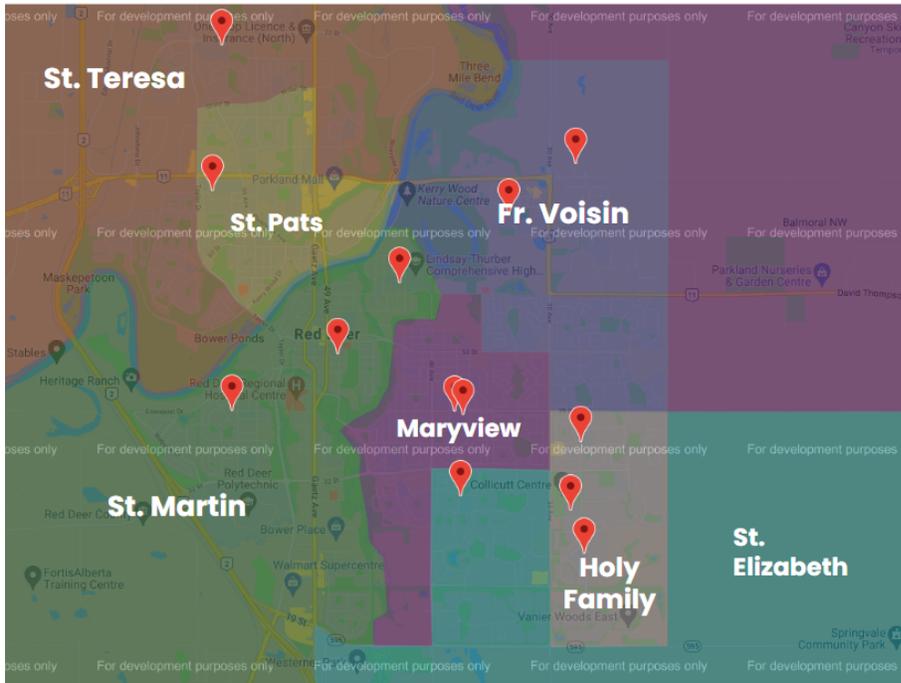
Option 1 Utilization Rate



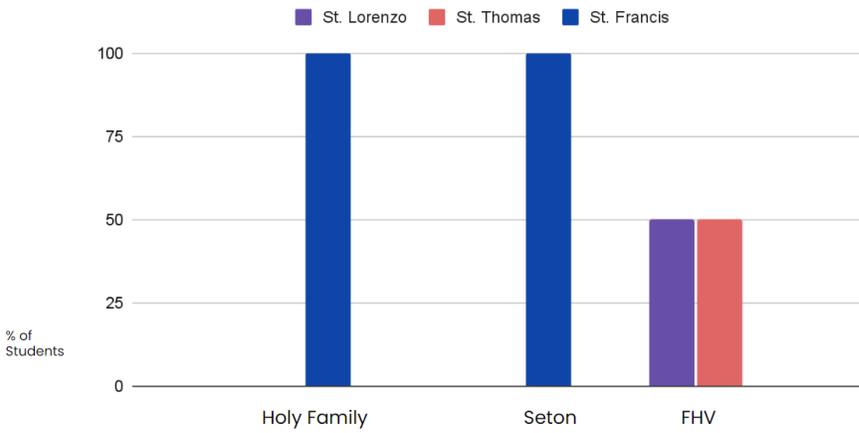
OPTION 2:

Option 2			
	St. Lorenzo	St. Thomas	Maryview
St. Martin	✓		
FHV (north of 55th), St Teresa, St. Pats*	✓		
FHV (south of 55th)		✓	
Sunnybrook & Southbrook		✓	
Sunnybrook, Southbrook & Rural NE (elementary)			✓

*Not wanting year round

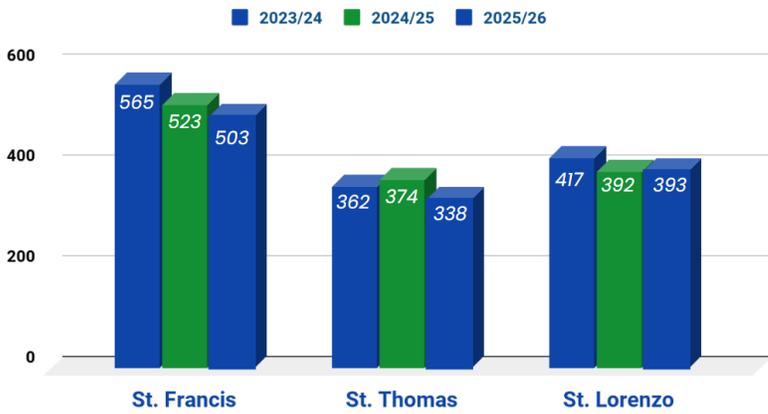


Elementary Transition Breakdown (Option 2)

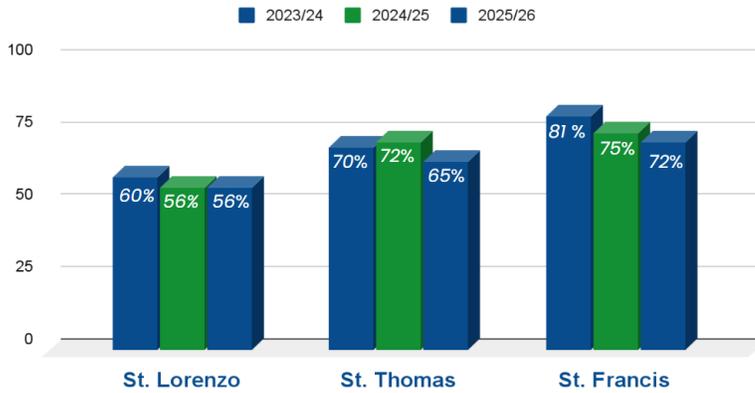




Option 2 Population Breakdown



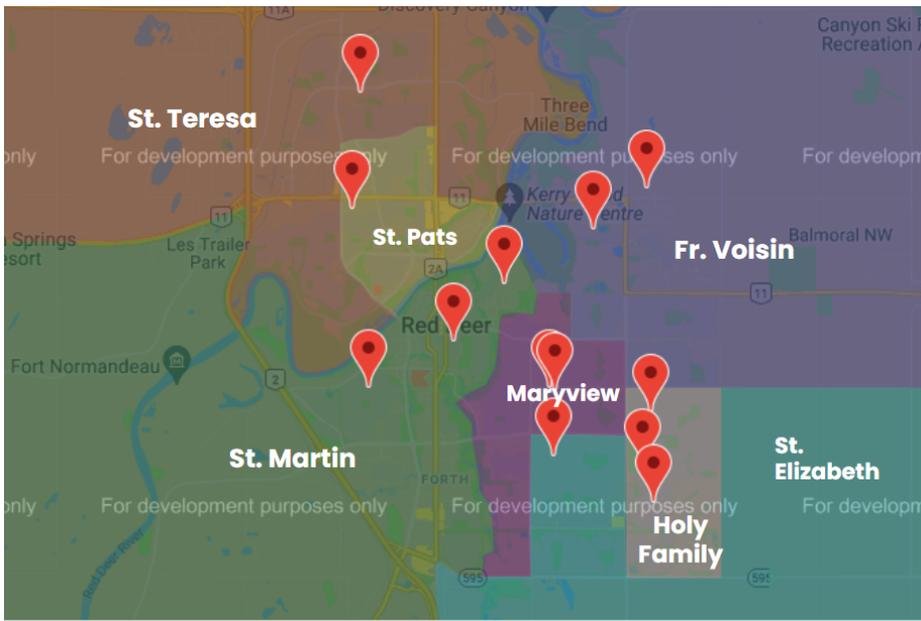
Option 2 Utilization Rate



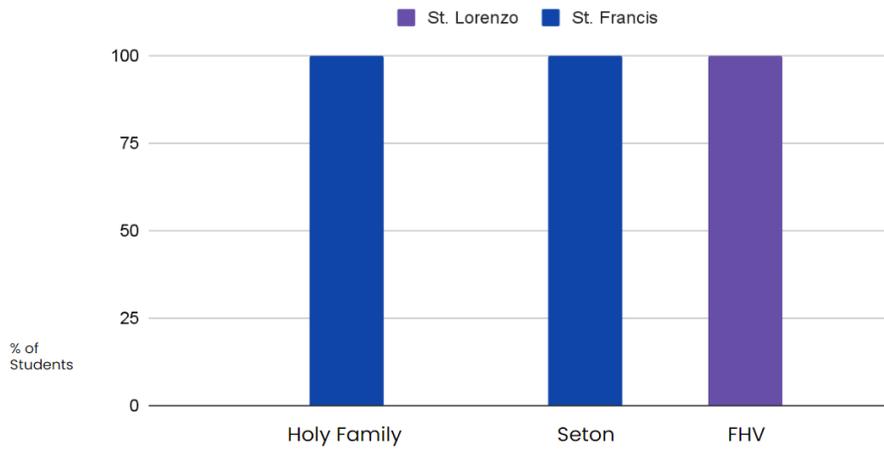
OPTION 3:

Option 3 Elementary

	St. Martin	FHV	Maryview
Sunnybrook			✓
Southbrook			✓
Rural NE		✓	
Rural W	✓		



Elementary Transition Breakdown (Option 3)

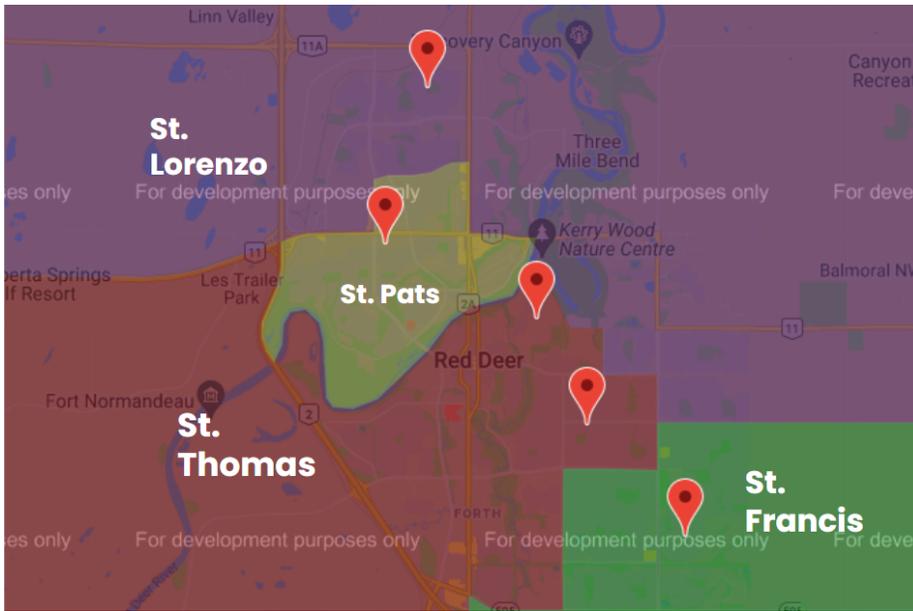


Option 3 Middle School

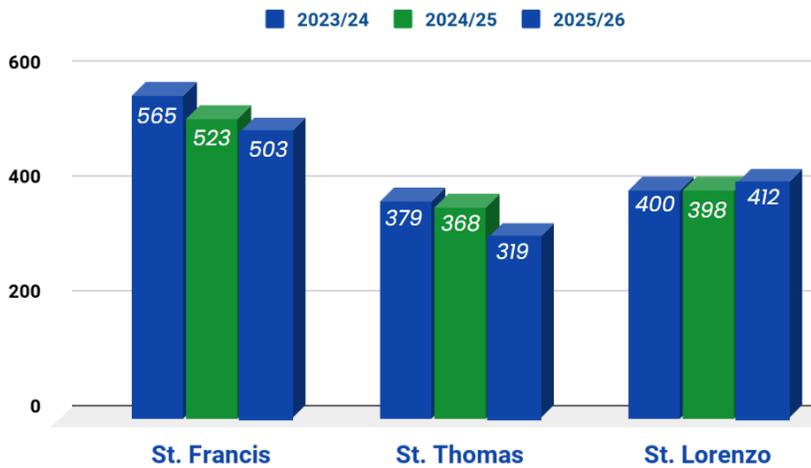
St. Lorenzo St. Thomas

St. Martin		✓
Fr. Voisin, St. Teresa and St. Pats*	✓	
Sunnybrook		✓
Southbrook		✓
Rural NE	✓	

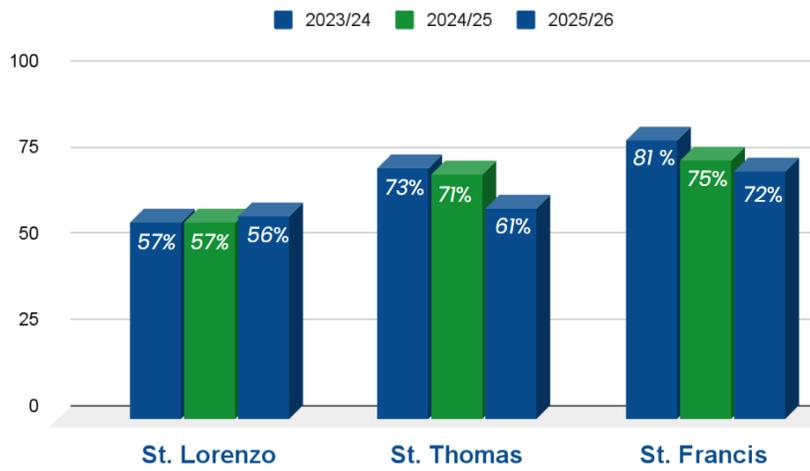
*Not wanting year round



Option 3 Population Breakdown



Option 3 Utilization Rate



Option 3 High School

	Notre Dame	St. Joseph
Eastview, Grandview, Michener Hill, & Parkvale	✓	
Fairview, Riverside, & Oriole Park		✓

These moves align with middle school boundaries to keep students with peers moving into high school.

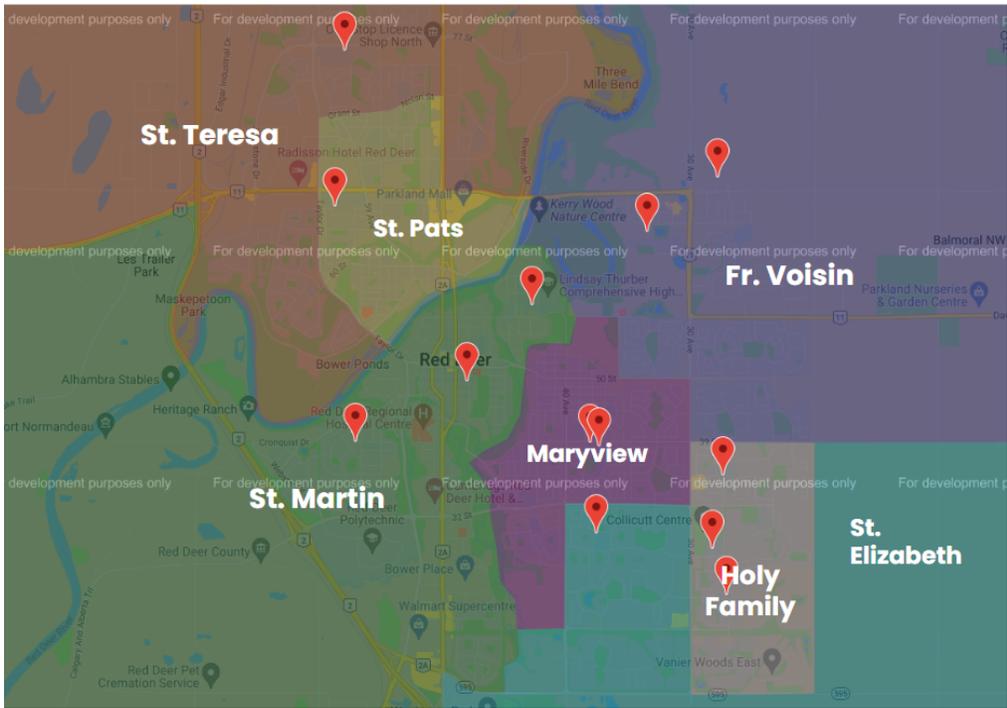


OPTION 4:

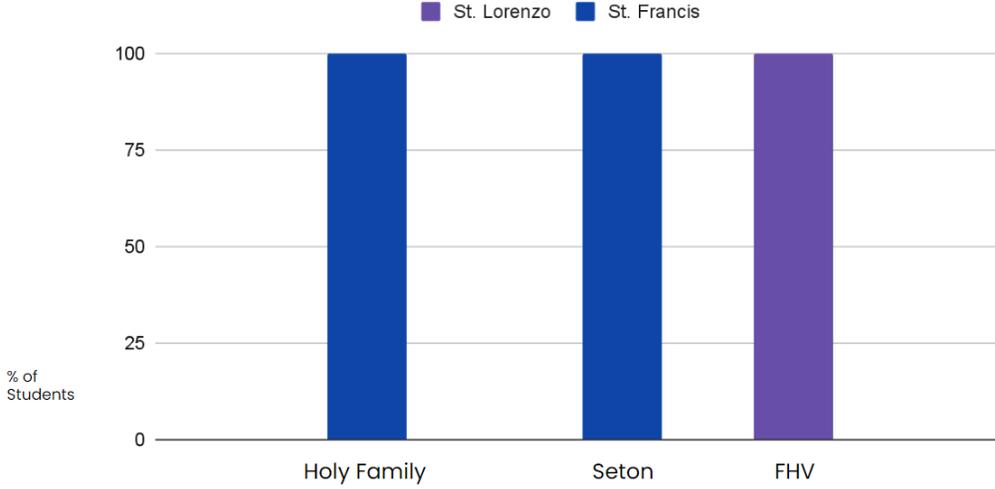
Southbrooke moves back to St. Francis of Assisi Middle School. Bowerwoods goes to St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School.

Option 4 Elementary

	St. Martin	FHV	Seton	Maryview
Sunnybrook				✓
Southbrook			✓	
Rural NE		✓		
Rural W	✓			



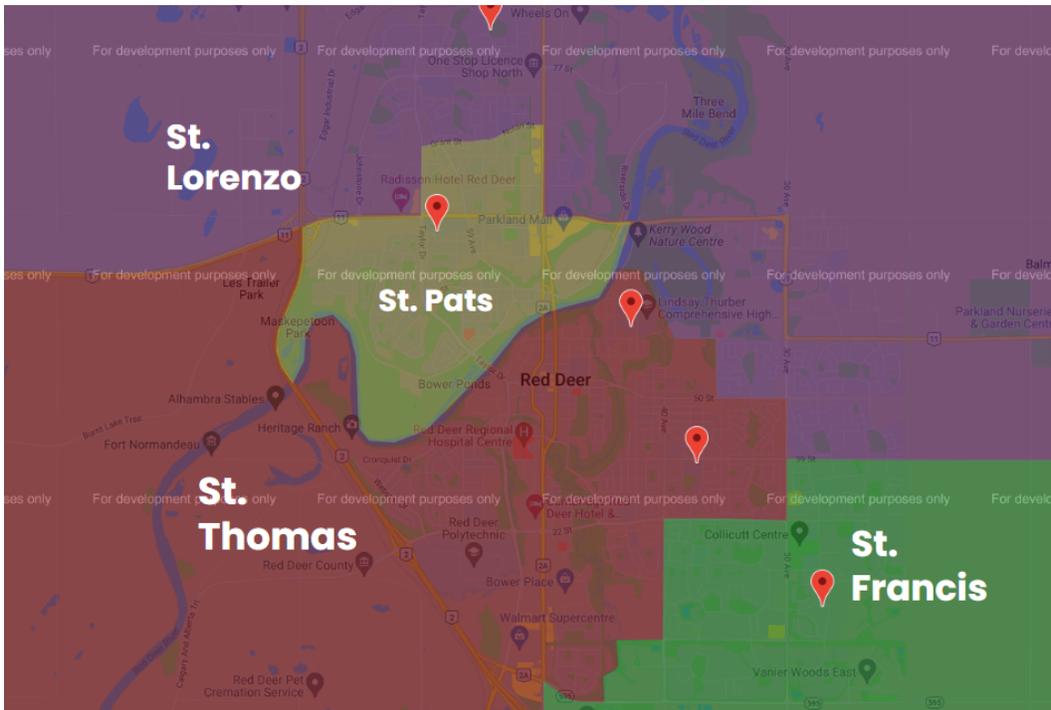
Elementary Transition Breakdown (Option 4)



Option 4 Middle School

	St. Francis	St. Lorenzo	St. Thomas
St. Martin			✓
Fr. Voisin, St. Teresa and St. Pats*		✓	
Sunnybrook & Bower Woods (Future Development)			✓
Southbrook	✓		
Rural NE		✓	

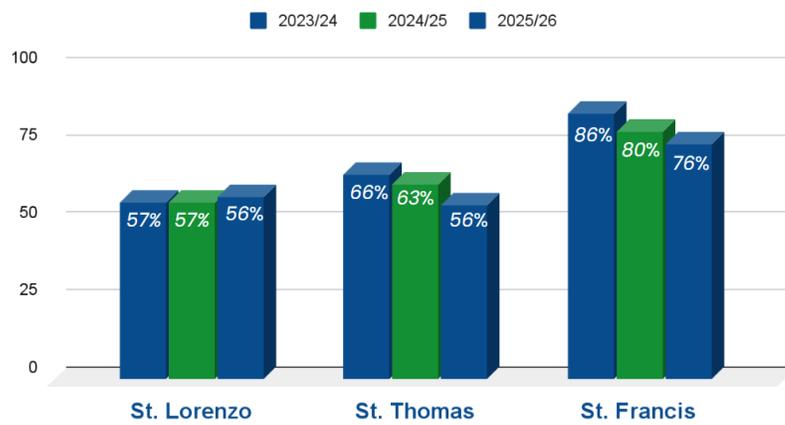
*Not wanting year round



Option 4 Population Breakdown



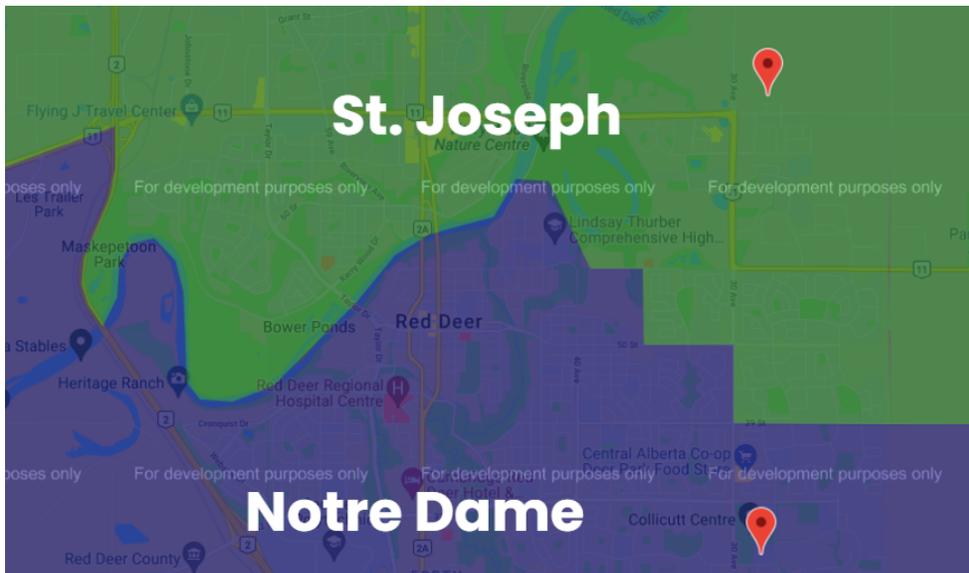
Option 4 Utilization Rate



Option 4 High School

	Notre Dame	St. Joseph
Eastview, Grandview, Michener Hill, & Parkvale	✓	
Fairview, Riverside, & Oriole Park		✓

These moves align with middle school boundaries to keep students with peers moving into high school.



Delinking Option (Similar to Option 1):

Area 1: N - St. Lorenzo: 347 students (Timberland, Garden Heights, Clearview Ridge, Oriole Park, Riverside Meadows, Highland Green, Glendale, Normandeu, Johnston Crossing, Kentwood, RD County North West).

Area 2: NE - St. Thomas : 432 students (Clearview, Michener, Michener Hill, Rosedale, Waskasoo, Woodlea, Eastview, Morrisroe, Grandview, Deer Park North, West Lake/West Park, RD County NE, Bowerwoods - eventual development and Baseball Academy).

Area 3: SE and SW - St. Francis: 633 students (Lancaster, Anders, Sunnybrook, Bower, Sunnybrook South, Inglewood, Vani er, RD County SE and SW and Foundations).

Grandfathering:

- Grandfathering is a choice, not a requirement.
- All students that will be attending middle school in 2023, will be eligible for the grandfathering program, if impacted by boundary adjustments.
- The elementary students will be determined when an option is developed. Grandfathering will occur because we potentially could have elementary students who will change schools in three years (Three schools in three years. For example, Grade 5 to Grade 6, then Grade 7 to St. Lorenzo Grades 7, 8, 9):
 - Option: We will grandfather you, but only provide RDCRS busing for one year (within City limits). If rural, due to the existing transfer sites, we could possibly continue to accommodate grandfathering beyond one year. Factors to consider: Room on bus and school, siblings.
 - Potentially, we could say, we will provide a transit pass (not a designated bus).
 - Process with a letter about the grandfathering and busing agreement.

Busing Guidelines:

- Consolidating stops.
- Express busing.
- Additional routes dependent on funding.

Appendix:

Feedback from March 16 Engagement Session and Stakeholder Emails:

Three Takeaways:

- Question: Did we look at each subdivision and their preferred option?
 - Nothing stood out to say we missed something.
 - Nothing surprising in data, information was based on individual needs, not on the big picture.
- Take a look at keeping the eastside together (FHV, etc.) East/West option.
 - In 2024/25, St. Lorenzo ends up at only 43%, St. Thomas (80%), St. Francis (82%).
 - St. Thomas/St. Francis will continue to get larger, St. Lorenzo will stay flat (non-growth area).
 - Issues within five years for schools.
- Leave Southbrooke (Sunnybrook South) at St. Francis (Option 3 and 4)
 - Moved students from St. Thomas to St. Francis.
 - We don't know the timeframe of the Bowerwoods area, and if we keep this section on here, Bowerwoods going to Maryview/St. Thomas, Maryview would not have the capacity.
 - Unknowns - 3, 5 or 10 years?
 - Hub Model is working at Maryview.
 - Option 4 is viable, leaving Southbrook at Seton and St. Francis.
 - St. Thomas may suffer a bit, but growth in the Bowerwoods area (new growth areas).
- Grandfathering:
 - Choice, not a requirement.
 - Potentially look at elementary students who have to change schools in three years (3 schools in 3 years i.e. Grade 5 to Grade 6, then Grade 7 to St. Lorenzo Grades 7/8/9):
 - Option: We will grandfather you, but only provide busing for one year (within City limits). If rural,
 - Potentially, we could say, we will provide a transit pass (not designated bus).
 - Process with a letter about the grandfathering and busing agreement.
 - 2.4 km then no busing (for middle/high schools).
 - *To reduce ride times:
 - Express Bus: Consolidate stops and have an express run to reduce ride times.

- OPTION 4: Southbrooke moves back to St. Francis of Assisi. Bowerwoods goes to St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School.
- St. Lorenzo to a French Immersion school and École Camille J. Lerouge School to a centralized middle school.
 - Significant changes would need to be made to St. Lorenzo.
 - Camille has 15-17 buses on-site.